



## Broughton Hall Catholic High School



### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY

Broughton Hall is a Roman Catholic School and our Mission Statement is based on Gospel Values. Therefore, Collective Worship is central to the school Ethos and its character.

This is expressed through opportunities for prayer and reflection, both privately and as a community, through Assemblies, and through whole school Collective Worship each morning during form. It is also expressed through sacramental and non-sacramental liturgies during different parts of the year. Our worship is reflected beyond the confines of school, particularly through retreats, the Faith in Action programme, and year group charity work.

Through Collective Worship:

- The school seeks to actively encourage the whole school community (pupils and staff) to share in the liturgical life of the Church.
- At Broughton Hall Catholic High School, we recognise that Collective Worship is an important opportunity to provide scope for our students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- It is our aim at Broughton Hall Catholic High School that, through Collective Worship, pupils will experience prayer in a variety of forms throughout their school life.

**Collective Worship provides opportunities for Pupils and Staff to come together to Worship God. Its purpose is to:-**

- Contribute to the spiritual, social, moral and cultural development of each student.
- Reaffirm and practise the values of the school community.
- Consider, clarify and celebrate Gospel values.
- Provide an opportunity for members of the school community to form a personal response to those values.
- Make opportunities available for prayer, reflection and worship in recognition of all that we do together.
- Involve pupils with the preparation and participation of daily prayer, worship and liturgy.
- Celebrate and give thanks for achievements both personal and within the school community.
- Foster and enable a concern for the needs of others, a recognition of the vulnerability of self and of others.
- Share our concerns about major issues of the day and place them in a Christian perspective.

**Collective worship in our school is:-**

- Properly planned
- Well resourced
- Recorded
- Monitored
- Evaluated

## **Evaluation of Collective Worship**

Following the planning of worship, the evaluation and recording needs to be an integral part of the process. Worship can be evaluated by those leading the worship, other staff, the pupils for whom the worship is intended or members of the governing body. Feedback from any of these groups will help to improve the quality of worship offered to the students. The School Chaplain encourages feedback from students and staff on Collective Worship so that we can review and develop the provision.

## **Provision**

The School Chaplain provides Collective Worship Power Points for all staff, which include a theme, relevant extracts from scripture, a prayer for each day throughout the School Year and “challenge” questions to encourage reflection and discussion. Other resources for assemblies etc., are available from the Chaplain. Staff and form groups can also take responsibility to create resources from a week of Collective Worship.

Each week there is a theme, or themes, for Collective Worship. These are published at the beginning of the term and e-mails are also sent at the beginning of each week. The themes chosen are broad enough to allow all those leading the worship to approach the theme from their own perspective (perhaps taking into account their own subject specialist strengths and the dynamics of their particular group), link to the liturgical year, and support key national awareness events. This will mean that, by the end of the week, the students will have had the opportunity to reflect on the theme from a variety of viewpoints. For ease of both those leading and participating in the worship, the Chaplain strives to explain key points of Catholic teaching in as accessible and straightforward terms as possible. Reference is often made to the teaching and encyclicals of Pope Francis, e.g. ‘Fratelli Tutti’ and ‘Laudato Si’ so that all have an awareness of current focus and direction in the Catholic Church. Furthermore, worship will frequently underpin the Mercy values of the Venerable Catherine McAuley, and make reference to her philosophy.

For inclusivity, and to promote religious harmony and tolerance, Catholic teaching may be supplemented and supported by the inclusion of related quotes from other world faith leaders, where appropriate. Additionally, thanks to a collaboration with a member of the MFL Department, key quotes from the Venerable Catherine McAuley are now translated into all languages used within school and displayed in the Chapel.

Where possible, Collective Worship themes can be followed up through related charitable or practical action to provide the opportunity for demonstrations of the “living faith” encouraged by Pope Francis, e.g. a targeted fundraising activity or a kindness challenge.

## **Monitoring of Collective Worship**

The monitoring of the planning and provision of worship should be carried out on a regular basis. The Foundation Governors have a key role in this process to ensure that the legal requirements are met and that the worship offered to the pupils is of the highest quality. It is important that Collective Worship is monitored regularly. The Deputy Head and the School Chaplain are responsible for this and make regular visits to different classes to lead and monitor the Worship.

## **Opportunities for Worship**

Students and staff are encouraged to use the school Chapel which provides them with the opportunity to experience stillness and quiet. The chapel has an open-door policy and people are welcome to use it throughout the day. In similar vein, the Chaplain operates an open-door policy and strives to be available for all who require support with worship and other issues. A range of materials are on site to help with prayer and reflection. Furthermore, slips of paper and pens are

provided so that anyone visiting the Chapel has the opportunity to leave a personal prayer on the altar. Additionally, relevant displays are placed at the front of the altar to reflect key points in the liturgical year, e.g. November as Month of the Holy Souls.

As the weekly mass (generally available on Wednesday morning at 8.15am, held in the Sixth Form jointly with Cardinal Heenan) and the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (usually held every Thursday 3.15-4.15 in the Chapel), have not been able to take place so far during this academic year due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Chaplain has sought to make alternative provision to support the spiritual and prayer life of the school in practical ways. For example, opportunities were offered for a socially-distanced Rosary and online armchair retreats have been made available to the school community.

### **Weekly Assemblies**

- Under regular conditions, each Year group has a weekly assembly. This is an important event as it symbolizes our community and is an opportunity for us to reflect and pray together.
- The Assembly will be led by the Progress Manager, School Chaplain, Form Class or a senior member of staff. Occasionally, guest speakers will be invited to lead assemblies.
- The Assembly should generally start and finish with a prayer and have a prayerful focal point.
- The school recognises that there is a difference between Acts of Collective Worship and the Assembly of students. On some occasions, assembly may proceed or follow an Act of Collective Worship. When this happens the transition from Assembly to Worship will be marked in some suitable way e.g. the lighting of a candle or reflecting on an image on the projector or power point presentation with a moment of silence for reflection.

### **School Liturgies and Mass**

- Throughout the year there are opportunities for the community to worship and experience Liturgy, both Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic.
- As, to date, the Archdiocese of Liverpool has not been able to facilitate school Masses during the current academic year due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Chaplain has provided a prayerful and reflective Service of Welcome for Yr 7 pupils and reflective and prayerful Chaplaincy sessions for other years. All provision has been linked to appropriate scripture readings and the Mercy values of the Venerable Catherine McAuley.
- Liturgy will be appropriately prepared to suit the age of the Students.
- Music, Drama and Dance are an important part of Worship in our school.
- Students will have the opportunity, and will be encouraged to participate in, the preparation and leading of liturgies. The school Chaplain and Progress Managers will work together to realise this. Collective Worship follows the Church's Liturgical Year:-
  - Advent
  - Christmas
  - Lent
  - Easter
- Whenever possible there will be a staff Mass at the beginning of each term and a reflection at the end of term.

**Geraldine Roberts-Stone**  
**School Lay Chaplain**

Reviewed: Dec 2020  
Next Review: Dec 2021